

ARSENAL PLANS TO EMPLOY 850 MORE WORKERS

Present Force Will Be Doubled To Meet New Tasks

Expansion of operations at the Joliet Arsenal will necessitate the hiring of approximately 850 additional workers as ammunition handlers and explosives operators, it was announced yesterday by Col. Byron Rife, commanding officer.

From previous reports, about 800 persons are now in the employ of the arsenal and with the hiring of the additional help, employment at the former munitions plant will be more than doubled.

THE NEW employees are needed because the Joliet Arsenal, in addition to being a standby facility, has been assigned the voluminous task by the ordnance department in Washington of storing and warehousing war reserve machine tools, jigs and fixtures, as well as war reserve ammunition and components. The magnitude of this assignment involves the shipment of war reserve material to the Joliet Arsenal from numerous other plants under the jurisdiction of the field director of ammunition plants, whose office is located at the arsenal.

This is in addition to the recent assignment which involved the opening of two lines for demilitarization and renovation of ammunition and for manufacture of practice ammunition.

A WAGE increase of 12 cents per hour for nongraded employees, previously announced by the war department, will be effective April 14.

Veterans of World Wars I and II are being given preference to these jobs. However, anyone interested is asked to report to the personnel office, located at the main gate of the arsenal, (formerly the EOP personnel office) between the hours of 8 a. m. and 2 p. m. Anyone qualified is asked to contact the personnel office at any time from tomorrow thru April 19. All the jobs will not be filled at one time, but as work progresses applicants will be called, Col. Rife said.